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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Ruth Thompson Law, who passed away on April 13, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Ruth Law was born on March 16, 1935, in Milton, Massachusetts; her parents were Willard Weir and Gertrude Brown Thompson; and

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WHEREAS, Ruth Law graduated from Colby Junior College in 1954; and

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WHEREAS, Ruth Law traveled extensively throughout the Far East, learning about the people, culture, and cuisine of the region while giving numerous cooking classes, lectures, and culinary and shopping tours; during her travels, she visited China, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and India; she featured her talents in her "What's Cooking" cooking school, which she operated out of her home in Hinsdale from 1981 to 1998; and

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WHEREAS, Over the years, she had the honor of studying and cooking with James Beard, Julia Child, Jacques Pepin, Emeril Lagasse, Graham Kerr, Rick Bayless, Art Smith, and Martin Yan, her mentor; she dined in Thailand with the Queen of Thailand,

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1 in Jaipur, India with the Dalai Lama, and in New Delhi with
2 Mother Teresa; and

3 WHEREAS, As a result of her passion for travel and sharing
4 her knowledge, Ruth Law wrote four cookbooks; her first, "Dim
5 Sum - Fast and Festive Chinese Cooking", was a Book of the
6 Month Club selection in 1982; "The Southeast Asia Cookbook",
7 which appeared on the Chicago Tribune Best Seller List, was a
8 Better Homes and Gardens book club selection and was chosen by
9 People magazine as one of the best cookbooks of 1990; "Indian
10 Light Cooking" was a Julia Child Cookbook Award Finalist;
11 "Pacific Light Cooking" was selected as one of the 10 best
12 health cookbooks of the year by Health magazine and Ms. Law was
13 awarded the 1998 Chicago Women in Publishing award for the
14 book; and

15 WHEREAS, Ruth Law appeared on Good Morning America and
16 numerous other television and radio programs; and

17 WHEREAS, Until recently, Ruth Law was the culinary director
18 for Bloomingdale's in Oak Brook, where she was able to combine
19 her love of food, teaching, and her keen sense of humor into a
20 position in life she cherished; she enjoyed bringing in local
21 and national chefs for Bloomingdale's Saturday Chef series and
22 working with them to cook for an audience filled with dedicated
23 and loyal friends and customers; and

1 WHEREAS, Ruth Law was preceded in death by her brother,
2 Ralph Willard Thompson; and

3 WHEREAS, Ruth Law is survived by her son, Grant Wordsworth
4 (Mary) Law Jr.; her daughters, Alison Law (Ted) Darling and
5 Sarah Thompson Law; her granddaughters, Ellen "Maggie"
6 Margaret and Anna Weir Darling; her sister-in-law, Joy
7 Thompson; and her nephews and niece, Glen, Ronald, and Nancy
8 Thompson; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
11 her family and friends, the passing of Ruth Thompson Law; and
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Ruth Law as an expression of our
15 sympathy.